

SHORTS MEADOW/EVERS CREEK TIMBER SALE

May 21, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Stillwater Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 11 air miles west of Whitefish, Montana.
- Flathead County – Sections 13, 14, 24, T31N-R24W
- 89% Public Buildings Trust and 11% School for the Deaf & Blind Trust by acres treated.
- This proposed timber sale is located within the Wildland/Urban Interface.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 28,764 tons (4,239 Mbf) with an estimated minimum value of \$719,100.00 or \$25.00/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$2.87/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- The conversion factor is 6.79 tons/Mbf.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale includes 16 harvest units totaling 389 acres.
- Current stocking levels are very high which have a negative impact on tree growth and overall stand vigor. The dense stands proposed for treatment in this sale currently pose an increased risk of wildfire in the Wildland/Urban Interface. Treatments are designed to reduce this risk.
- The proposed silvicultural prescriptions are seedtree on 326 acres and commercial thin on 63 acres. The seedtree harvest prescription is designed to promote the regeneration of western larch and ponderosa pine while the commercial thin prescription is designed to reduce stocking and improve growth on the residual trees. Proposed harvest treatments would reduce overall stocking levels and remove trees infected with bark beetles and root rot. Healthy, large diameter western larch, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir trees would be favored for retention.
- After harvest, approximately 40 acres would be planted with ponderosa pine.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 92% Tractor and 8% skyline.

Road Construction:

- Approximately 0.25 miles of new road construction are required to access the harvest units.
- Maintenance on 3.8 miles of existing roads is required to bring the roads up to current Best Management Practices standards.
- Current road restrictions would remain in place to maintain wildlife security, reduce the spread of noxious weeds, and minimize future maintenance costs.

Public Involvement:

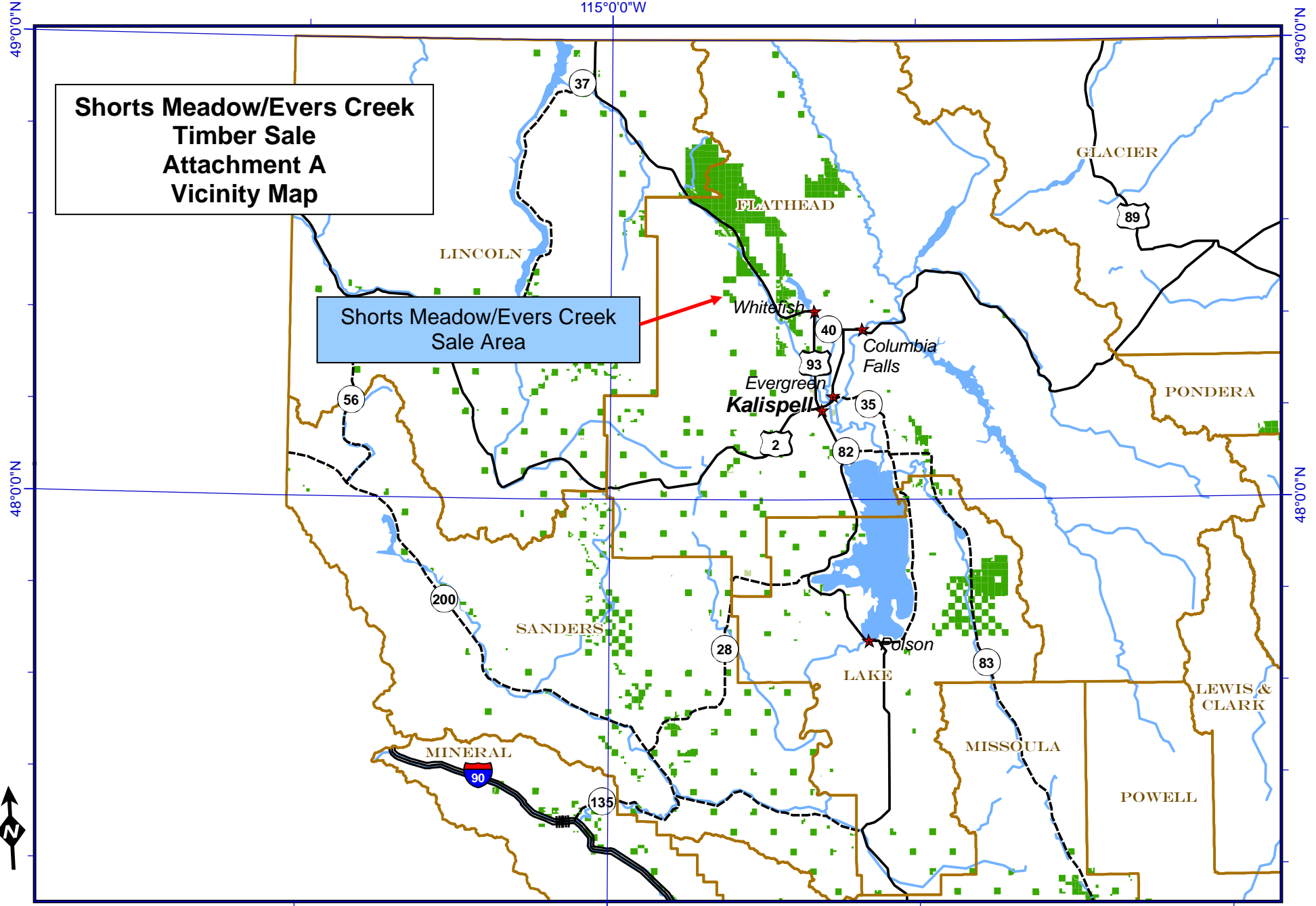
- Public involvement was solicited through legal notices published in the *Whitefish Pilot* and the *Tobacco Valley News*. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and interested parties. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies helped

identify the issues that were analyzed. The identified areas of concern were wildlife, forest fuels, aesthetics (visuals), and the spread of noxious weeds.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

- **Fuels Reduction** – Several rural homesteads surround the Shorts Meadow/Evers Creek project area and the project is within a wildland urban interface. This project would reduce dense forest fuels on approximately 320 acres. Also, harvest areas within 1,000 feet of a residence would have additional cleanup of logging-created slash. Wildland firefighting efforts would benefit from the upgraded transportation system and the proposed harvest prescriptions.
- **Noxious Weeds** – The spread of noxious weeds would be limited by using an integrated weed management plan. Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site. Several haul and access roads would be sprayed with herbicides to treat existing weeds. All disturbed areas would be grass seeded. The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.
- **Aesthetics** – Local residents were concerned about how the area would appear along the roadways and meadows after harvesting is completed. To address their concerns, DNRC personnel met with local residents and did some sample tree marking which helped them understand the amount and types of trees that would be retained along the roadways and meadows.
- **Wildlife** – The project area is not within big game winter range, although it is along a big game migration corridor. Retention of shrubs and trees along the roads, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas would maintain existing limited sight distances. In addition, the current road restrictions would remain unchanged to maintain security for wildlife. Access for hunters would not change. Retention of potential denning habitat for Canada lynx was a primary mitigation measure developed for this project.

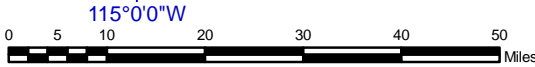
The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Shorts Meadow/Evers Creek Timber Sale Project.



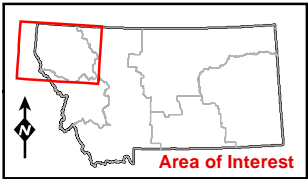
**Shorts Meadow/Evers Creek
Timber Sale
Attachment A
Vicinity Map**

Shorts Meadow/Evers Creek
Sale Area

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--------|--|-------------------------|
| | Interstate Highway | | Rivers | | Lakes |
| | U.S. Route | | City | | DNRC managed for timber |
| | State Highway | | County | | DNRC other |



21 February 2007
Montana DNRC
Technical Services Section/dr



SHORTS MEADOW/EVERS CREEK TIMBER SALE

UNIT MAP - Sections 13, 14, and 24, T31N, R24W

Attachment A
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Legend

- Ground Based
- Cable Based
- Streams
- Roads**
 - Gated/Closed
 - New Construction
 - County/USFS
 - Road to be Reclaimed
 - Temporary Road

2,100 1,050 0 Feet

